

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 EA-06 SAJ-01

/054 W

----- 002480

R 071120Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9382

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0027

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CZ, AF

SUBJECT: COLD WAR IN KABUL?

REF: 75 KABUL 8054

1. EMBASSY KABUL'S DESCRIPTION OF CZECHS AS UNDER THE RUSSIAN THUMB COULD NOT BE MORE ACCURATE. IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO FOLLOW THE SOVIET LEAD IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, THEY HAVE BEEN KNOWN ON OCCASION TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF THEIR GUIDES; THUS THE VIOLENCE TO DIPLOMATIC NORMS IN KABUL COULD HAVE BEEN AT SOVIET INSTRUCTION OR COULD EVEN HAVE EXCEEDED WHAT THE SOVIETS WANTED. IN ANY EVENT, WE ASSUME THE SOVIETS THINK THEY CAN SCORE SOME CHEAP POLITICAL POINTS AGAINST THE SOUTH KOREANS BY THESE RUDENESSES, AND THE CZECHS HAVE GONE ALONG. WE HOPE THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO MAKE ITS POINTS ABOUT DIPLOMATIC PROPRIETIES FORCEFULLY.

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2. AS FOR ANY HARDENED ATTITUDE ON THE SOVIET PART,
WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGNS OF IT HERE, ALTHOUGH
PRAGUE MAY NOT BE A VERY GOOD LOOKOUT POST FOR SUCH.
AS OVERLORDS, THE SOVIETS HERE SHOW A GOODLY AMOUNT
OF SUPERIORITY; BUT THEY ALSO (AS USUAL) BETRAY A CER-
TAIN LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN POSITION, AND
THEY SEEM INTERESTED IN HAVING THE RESPECT OF THE
OTHER DIPLOMATS, DEFINITELY INCLUDING THE US. (WHILE
WE, FOR OUR PART, ARE CORRECT, WE DO NOT SEEK OUT
THE SOVIETS, AND CERTAINLY DO NOT MAKE ANY SPECIAL
SHOW OF US-USSR COOPERATION. NO DOUBT RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO EMBASSIES ARE MORE NORMAL IN KABUL
THAN IN PRAGUE, FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW.) JUDGING BY
THE WARM PERSONAL HOLIDAY CARDS RECEIVED FROM SOVIET
EMBASSY OFFICERS, AS WELL AS OTHER INDICATORS, NOTHING
HAS CHANGED HERE RECENTLY FOR THE CHILLIER.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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